

U.S. dissatisfied with peace talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The State Department said Friday it was unhappy with the progress in the Middle East peace talks and called on Israeli and Arab delegations to get the necessary backing from home to push ahead. "We are not yet satisfied that enough progress has been made or that the delegations have enough authority to go beyond familiar positions," said spokesman Michael McCurry. "They need that authority to move where the process needs to go next," he said. The current round of talks which began here June 15 closed next Thursday and none of the delegations have reported any real progress in their bilaterals and have called on the United States to step in (see story below). "I think we have done our best to help the parties to bridge their differences," Mr. McCurry said.

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Regent meets Aziz

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday received at the Royal Court Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, who was on his way from Geneva to Baghdad. Mr. Aziz briefed Prince Hassan on the outcome of the talks he had with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali and the situation in Iraq. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Israelis unhappy with Rabin's peace policy

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A majority of Israelis do not agree with the way the government is conducting the Middle East peace talks, according to a survey published Friday. The Yedioth Aharonot newspaper found 59 per cent disagreed. Some 32 per cent thought the government's peace policy was "not very good" and 27 per cent "not good." But 34 per cent found the policy good and seven per cent very good.

Israeli helicopters hit DFLP office

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Israeli helicopter gunships blasted rockets into a Palestinian group's office in a South Lebanon refugee camp on Friday, wounding a man, witnesses said. Two helicopters fired four rockets into the one-storey office of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in the heart of Al Bus refugee camp, they said. A member of the DFLP working in the building was slightly wounded.

Israelis arrest 3, wound eight

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers arrested three wanted Palestinians and shot and wounded eight Arabs in separate incidents Friday in the occupied Gaza Strip, the army said. Palestinian sources said. Also on the Gaza masked men shot and killed Ahmad Abdul Adi Rissa, 24, whom they accused of collaborating with the Israeli authorities, Palestinian sources said.

Nathan gets Libyan visa

TUNIS (AP) — Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan said Friday he had been issued a visa to visit Libya, where he hopes to meet Muammar Qadhafi to promote Jewish-Libyan relations. Mr. Nathan, however, told reporters he planned to leave by road for the Libyan border Saturday.

OAU to mediate in Libya dispute

CAIRO (AFP) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) will try to mediate in the West's dispute with Libya over the 1989 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. OAU sources said Friday. African foreign ministers meeting here have decided to ask Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who is to assume the OAU chairmanship after the pan-African organisation's summit in Cairo next week, to use his "good offices" to settle the dispute.

Germany's SPD elects new chief

ESSEN (AFP) — Germany's opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) Friday installed a new president, Rudolf Schärp, in a centred shift towards ending a 10-year split in the political wilderness. Mr. Schärp, 45-year-old premier of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, was also installed as the party's champion in the 1994 race for the chancellor against the veteran Helmut Kohl.

Wheeler becomes N. Ireland minister

LONDON (AFP) — John Wheeler, a 53-year-old Conservative member of parliament and former assistant prison warden, was Friday named to succeed John Mates, who Thursday resigned under fire as junior minister for Northern Ireland. Mr. Wheeler has been on the Tory backbenches 14 years. Backbenches 14 years (see page 8).



His Majesty King Hussein with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the State Department on Thursday (AFP photo).

Christopher, Rabin 'exchange ideas' as delegates await action

Combined Agency despatches

U.S. SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher discussed a new proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles in talks Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Sources close to Mr. Rabin said in Tel Aviv the conversation took place over the telephone. They did not elaborate.

The Israeli and Palestinian delegations said this week in Washington that the United States was expected to make a new proposal to bridge the gap between the two sides.

In Washington Israeli and Palestinian delegates said they were hoping the United States would step in before peace talks wrap up next week to put their negotiations back on track.

U.S. intervention could come in the form of a new plan for Palestinian self-rule in the occu-

pied territories, according to the Palestinian delegation's spokesman Hanan Ashrawi.

"We have explained our concept of the plan in detail to State Department officials over the past 10 days and we believe they will come up with their own," Dr. Ashrawi said.

"We do not know, however, what they will present," she added, noting that her side was most concerned over Israel's approach to East Jerusalem.

A source close to the Israeli delegation said the U.S. document could be submitted early next week, just a few days before this round of peace talks in Washington ends July 1.

During the last session which ended May 13, U.S. officials presented a draft text outlining principles for a compromise solution, but the Palestinians rejected the plan arguing that it sided too much with the Israelis.

(Continued on page 5)

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Friday ended an 11-day state visit to the U.S. seen as having achieved success in mending bilateral relations and establishing a better rapprochement with the administration of Bill Clinton.

Both American and Jordanian officials said the visit of the King, who met with President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, senior American administration officials as well as leading congressmen, was highly successful, particularly that the Monarch clearly conveyed Jordan's position on various regional and international issues and secured American pledges of support.

The king, who is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, was scheduled to leave Washington for Rochester, Minnesota, where he was to undergo medical checks at the Mayo Clinic.

King Hussein capped his visit to the U.S. capital with meetings with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Senate leaders Thomas Mitchell (Democrat) and

Robert Dole (Republican).

Mr. Christopher's discussion with the King covered the Middle

East peace process as well as other issues including the democ-

ratization process under way in

Jordan.

He paid tribute to Jordan's

consistent support for the peace process.

Mr. Christopher called on the

parties to the 20-month-old Mid-

dle East peace negotiations to

focus on "substantive problems"

— and "not be diverted by pro-

cedural changes."

The secretary also publicly reaffirmed the Clinton adminis-

tration's commitment to letters of

assurance given to the parties

prior to the October 1991 Madrid

Conference that began the cur-

rent search for Middle East

peace.

The negotiations resumed on

June 15 after a month-long re-

cess. They involve direct peace

talks between Israel and its Arab

neighbours — Syria, Lebanon

and Jordan — and discussions

between Israeli and Palestinian

representatives on interim self-

governing arrangements for the

occupied territories.

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Welcoming King Hussein to

the State Department for a lun-

cheon, Mr. Christopher told re-

porters that the United States remains "indebted to him

for his consistent support of the

peace process in the Middle

East."

"He's been a leader in this area

for some time and I'm very grate-

ful to have him assisting us in

trying to move that process for-

ward," the secretary said.

Describing the Monarch as "a

long-time friend of the United

States," Mr. Christopher said:

"We're most admiring of the

steps that the King has taken

toward democratisation in his

country. They've been very pro-

gressive and very desirable steps."

He also praised Jordan's enforce-

ment of United Nations sanctions

against Iraq.

King Hussein said he was im-

pressed by President Clinton's

determination to contribute his

utmost for the establishment of a

just, comprehensive and durable

peace in our region... Our ideas

are the same, objectives, prin-

ciples that we uphold, and we hope

that we can contribute towards a

better future for the genera-

tions to come in our region."

Responding to questions from

reporters, Mr. Christopher said

the United States remains "com-

mitted to the letters of assurances

that were given in connection

with the Madrid Conference and

the restarting of the peace nego-

tiations. We've indicated that to

the parties as the process was

restarted here in the United

States.

"We're working closely with

the parties in that difficult sub-

ject," he continued. "We've been

in close touch with all the bilat-

eral negotiations. They are at a

substantive level and the parties

are grappling with some extreme-

ly difficult issues."

Asked about Syrian and Israeli

suggestions that some changes

might be required in the Madrid

format for the negotiations, Mr.

Christopher responded: "We

think that the emphasis ought to

be on dealing with the substantive

problems. I'm not sure that

there's any need for process or

procedural changes.

The main goal of the United

(Continued on page 5)

Robert Dole (Republican).

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Middle East News

Russia to process Iraqi nuclear fuel

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Russia has won a contract to take radioactive Iraqi fuel that could have been used in making a nuclear bomb, a United Nations spokesman said Friday.

Spokesman Jan Fischer revealed this shortly after a team of 10 U.N. nuclear inspectors headed for Baghdad, on a mission partly to help arrange for the removal of the fuel and partly to help ensure that Iraq does not resume its nuclear programme.

U.N. inspectors say Iraq had been only a few years away from building a nuclear bomb before it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. "That (nuclear) programme is out of business," Mr. Fischer said.

But he said it was important for the inspectors to visit regularly to seek responses to unanswered questions and to be sure equipment like sophisticated machine tools are no longer used in the programme.

"They are going to fill in some gaps and make sure that what they know about is not being used to restart a new programme," said Mr. Fischer, chief of the field office of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) set up to destroy Iraq's dangerous weapons.

And they will be making detailed arrangements for the eventual evacuation of about 40 kilogrammes of irradiated fuel, which Mr. Fischer said would have been enough for use in one or two bombs if Iraq had reached that stage.

The 10-member team was headed by Bob Kelley, an American nuclear weapons expert from Los Almos, New Mexico.

No date for transporting the weapons-grade fuel has been fixed. But Mr. Fischer told the Associated Press that Moscow had won a bid to buy the fuel, which Iraq had bought several years ago from the former Soviet Union and France, ostensibly for peaceful purposes.

Iranian cleric says U.S. behind terrorism in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian cleric Friday accused the United States of sponsoring "terrorist" activities in Iran and ruled out any reconciliation between the two countries, Tehran Radio reported.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati was addressing worshippers at Friday prayers at Tehran University, said the radio, monitored in Nicosia.

"It is the United States which is responsible for these terrorist activities in Iran," he said, apparently referring to a recent upsurge in attacks by the Iranian Ayatollah Beheshti, were killed.

The Mujahedeen claimed responsibility for that and a series of other explosions.

"If someone thinks we will reconcile our differences with United States, that person is mistaken," said Ayatollah Jannati.

He accused Washington of allowing the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia, and said the United States was behind a plan for partitioning the former Yugoslav republic along ethnic lines.

"God should send a curse on the one who claims to be the champion of human rights, but plays with the dignity of others," he said.

Ayatollah Jannati accused the Western media of reporting a crackdown on women flouting the Islamic dress code in a malicious way.

Since Tuesday, Iranian security forces have set up roadblocks to enforce the Islamic veil, which requires women to be covered from head to toe, with only hands and face showing.

Scores of women have been arrested in recent days for hair peaking out of head scarves, wearing make-up, and even for wearing sunglasses.

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19:00 France sur
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Super Bloomers
21:00 Not Another Science Show
21:45 News in English
22:00 Soccer match

PRAYER TIMES

03:52 Fajr
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12:38 Dhuhr
16:18 Asr
19:49 Magrib
21:25 Isha'

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A special U.N.-flagged, Soviet-built Antonov 124 plane will be used to transport the fuel to Moscow before the end of the year. The plane, according to U.N. officials, would be adapted to ensure that even in the event of a crash, there would be no leakage of radiation.

The operation would be the first of its kind as such material in the past was moved by ship.

The fuel had been moved from Thuwaitha, Iraq's main nuclear research establishment west of Baghdad, after the facility was bombed by U.S. warplanes during the Gulf war.

It has since been stored in a special steel-lined, concrete depot in farmlands five kilometres north of the facility under the supervision of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Mr. Kelley's team was the 20th from the IAEA to travel to Iraq since the weapons elimination process began after the 1991 Gulf war.

Some 38 other teams have been destroying chemicals and biological weapons, ballistic missiles and plants that produced such arsenals.

Iraqis have resisted some of these teams.

Nikita Smidovich, a UNSCOM official, remained locked in a standoff with the Iraqis over installation of monitoring cameras at two missile sites.

Iraq has refused to accept long-term monitoring of its weapons sites.

Mr. Smidovich and his accompanying team, have been in Iraq since June 4.

The U.N. Security Council met on June 18 and warned Iraq of grave consequences if it did not relent.

A next day, Iraq said it was willing to cooperate fully with the Security Council's resolutions if it obtained assurances that economic sanctions, in force since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, would be lifted.

Activists demand end to ADC 'spying'

WASHINGTON (USA) — Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) President Albert Mokhiber has called on the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) to apologize for its "spying" on American citizens and to discontinue the practice.

At a June 22 news conference in front of ADL's national headquarters in Washington — which followed a lengthy protest by some 45 picketers — Mr. Mokhiber pointed to the recent case in California, where, according to press reports, authorities are investigating allegations that the ADL maintained a private intelligence network which illegally tapped into police records to cull information on some 12,000 people.

Asked to comment on the protest, ADL spokesman Michael Lieberman said: "This demonstration is based on grossly distorted and groundless accusations against the ADL."

"Many of the groups involved in this demonstration," he added, "have a long record of hostility to ADL and important interests to the Jewish community — such as the security of the state of Israel."

And, Mr. Lieberman added: "Contrary to allegations, ADL has never targeted civil rights groups for investigations and we have never targeted any individual on the basis of his or her race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation."

Mr. Mokhiber said that "for years that similar information on Palestinian, Central American and Irish political activists in the United States may have been provided to governments hostile to Israel."

Asked if ADL "agents" reportedly admitted selling information on anti-apartheid activists to South African intelligence agents, Mr. Mokhiber said, thus generating "fears that similar information on

other political activists who are critical of Israeli policy. Roy Bullock, the ADL paid spy, it has now been revealed, infiltrated our own ADC chapters."

The ADL, he said, finds it "most disconcerting" that the ADL, "a civil rights organisation with a commendable history of work for American minorities, has taken it upon itself to spy upon a whole range of other civil rights and progressive organisations" which should be "allies sharing the same values."

Also joining in the news conference were Angela Sanbrano, executive director of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES); Cynthia Johnson, co-director of the Women Strike for Peace; Betsy Swart, representing the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; Rita Mullan, representative of the Irish National Caucus; and Benito Torres, of the Washington Peace Centre.

Mr. Mokhiber said the ADL and the other organisations plan to continue picketing the ADL on a weekly basis, until the ADL responds positively to their demands.

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CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday receives British Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Evers at the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF). Mr. Evers presented the fund with a cheque of £27,200 for the third and final stage of a project of setting up Women's Enterprise Development Units at QAF's social development centres in Irbid, Mafraq, and the Hashemite area of Amman. These units aim to help local women establish small

enterprise projects, by providing them with the necessary skills such as marketing, business planning and market research. The units are established and initial training is provided by a British consulting group, the Community Education Development Centre (CEDC), sponsored by the Overseas Development Agency (ODA). As a result of this project, the Queen Alia Fund is expected to help more women to become self-employed and family incomes will be increased.

Conference to endorse strategy on women

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian national conference scheduled here Tuesday is expected to endorse a national strategy on women as part of Jordan's preparations for the 1995 Peking International Women's Conference.

At a meeting Thursday under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, a task force was formed to prepare for the conference and present the strategy at Tuesday's meeting as well as at the 1995 Peking conference.

The Princess, who is to lead the Jordanian delegation to the Peking meeting, reviewed the main points of the national strategy and the Jordanian women's participation in the international meeting.

Expressing her delight at women's contributions to the various social and economic activities in Jordan, Princess Basma urged women's unions to double their efforts and activities at in-

ternational forums.

The task force members include: Inaam Mufli, Haifaa Al Bashir, Haifaa Abu Ghazaleh, Emily Naffaa, Amal Al Farhan, Siham Al Qasem and Buthaina Jaradeh.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, who is president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, noted in an address Princess Basma's continued support for women's unions and their drive to promote the status of women in urban, rural and bedouin regions and in backing efforts towards involving women in the ongoing process of social and economic development.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Souri, was present at the meeting, said that the Jordanian delegation was planning to play a key role and contribute significantly towards promoting the role of women.

In addressing the gathering, Princess Basma described the

Arab-American doctors form Jordanian society

AMMAN (J.T.) — As a result of the 5-day Arab-American doctors convention which ended here Thursday, a society for Jordanian physicians in the United States was created.

A statement at the final session said that the new society, which will be headed by fertility specialist Suheil Muasher as president, was aimed at further bolstering ties of cooperation among Arab and American physicians.

The society will formulate programmes for exchanged visits, training of Jordanian physicians

and nurses and securing financial support for the Jordanian health services, said the statement, read by Akram Shunnaq, the convention's rapporteur.

The participants in the convention reviewed 140 working papers, of which 40 were presented by Jordanian physicians, said Dr. Shunnaq.

They also toured archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

Dr. Shunnaq said that some participants left Friday for the West Bank to visit relatives.

CAA expects to add to RJ destinations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Before the end of the year, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) expects to reach an agreement by which Royal Jordanian (RJ) will open flight routes to Japan, Bangladesh and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

CAA Director General Ahmad Jweibier told the Jordan Times recently that contacts are also underway with the Civil Aviation Authorities of these nations to examine the prospects of their national airlines operating flights to Jordan.

In the first half of 1993, said Mr. Jweibier, the CAA concluded air transport agreements with aviation authorities in China, Australia, Iran, the Ukraine, Poland and Bulgaria.

The Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) and Austrian Airways recently resumed flights to Amman, raising the total number of Arab and foreign airlines landing at the Queen Alia International Airport to 18, noted Mr. Jweibier.

Not only has the number of

airlines increased, Mr. Jweibier concedes, but also the air freight and mail as well as the number of passengers arriving in or passing through Jordan in transit has been on the rise.

He added that this is a clear sign of Jordan's recovery from the consequences of the Gulf crisis of 1990.

Heavy penalties await careless picnickers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Interior Ministry is planning to take drastic measures against people proved to be responsible for fires in the wooded areas of Jordan.

A report in the local daily Sawt Al Shabab said Friday that Interior Minister Salameh Hammad issued strict orders to the con-

cerned authorities to impose penalties on those people, in line with the provisions of the 1992 Civil Defence Law.

It said that the law prohibits any lighting of fires or the use of inflammable materials in national parks, forests and other wooded regions of Jordan.

Number of drug addicts estimated at 950

AMMAN (Petra) — The estimated number of persons suffering from drug addiction in Jordan now stands at 950 and is on the increase mainly because of unemployment among youth, according to the Public Security Department (PSD).

The estimated was announced Friday by Hisham Ensour, head of PSD's Anti-Narcotics division on the eve of Jordan's observance Saturday of the world day for combating drugs.

The sale and use of illicit drugs are crimes in Jordan.

Of the 950 drug users, police authorities have apprehended 818 between 1983 and 1992, said Col. Ensour.

In the last three years, ending in 1992, Col. Ensour said authorities arrested 320 users.

He said the addiction rate in the country is about three persons for every 10,000 citizens.

But he added that indications are that illicit drug usage is on the rise.

Col. Ensour said combating drug addiction requires the close cooperation of the private and public sectors and social institutions.

He stressed that it is the duty of the family and parents to guard against this danger.

Col. Ensour explained that the rapid changes in society's structure witnessed in the country over the past decade, demographic changes, unemployment and the return to Jordan of a large number of expatriates were among the main reasons for the increase in the drug problem, especially among young people.

Addiction, he warned has no borders and the danger is spreading from Europe and the U.S. to the Arab region at a time when reports continue about major smuggling and drug trafficking operations.

Despite the preventive measures being adopted in Jordan and other parts of the world, drug trafficking and drug addiction are becoming a dangerous problem, said Col. Ensour.

Jordan is not considered a drug consuming country by international standards, but rather a passage way for smugglers and traffickers many of whom have been arrested and their operations in Jordan aborted.

He said the PSD urges Arab and foreign countries to pool their efforts and heed international agreements and protocols on the exchange of information that would help lead to the arrest



Drug addiction is an international problem requiring cooperation among countries in efforts to combat a dangerous menace (File photo)

of perpetrators.

Coinciding with Col. Ensour's statement, the Arab Interior Minister Council in Tunis issued a statement appealing to Arab governments to spread awareness among the public on the dangers

of drugs.

Noting that the Arab society is open to and easily affected by other societies, the statement said that drug addiction should be combated by all means and at all levels.

Meeting urges increase in meat, dairy production

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day conference on promoting livestock wealth in the Arab World ended here Thursday with a call on agriculture ministries to coordinate their efforts with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in order to promote food production and ensure food security for the region's increasing population.

Underlining the need to augment red meat and dairy production in Arab states, a statement issued at the final session called on cattle breeders to work to-wards that end or concerned authorities to provide sufficient animal feed, water supplies and other inputs and requirements to help farmers in these endeavours.

It also urged veterinary unions to increase dairy and meat production and said countries like Sudan and Egypt ought to promote the techniques of artificial insemination and encourage its use in other Arab countries.

Noting that the cost of animal feed accounts for nearly 70 per cent of the total cost of meat and milk production, the statement

said Arab governments should encourage green fodder production and expand pasture lands.

The statement recommended boosting the role of cooperatives and establishing dairy council.

At the end of the meetings, which were organised by the Arab Union for Food Industries, three cattle breeding societies in Jordan were honoured and presented with merit certificates in recognition of their contribution towards promoting the food industrial sector in the Kingdom.

Free medical day observed in Talal municipality, Karak

AL QASR, Karak (Petra) — Deputising for Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Thursday attended the seventh free medical day organised by the Great Arab Revolt Club in Talal municipality area in the Qasr district, Karak governate.

Doctors from the private and public sectors participated in the day and offered medical services to citizens free of charge.

Dr. Malhas lauded the efforts of the Great Arab Revolt Club in serving the local society and expressed the ministry's readiness to support the club.

Head of the club's Hashemite Medical Team Nayef Al Abdullat said the aim of this voluntary event was to provide medical and

humanitarian services to needy citizens in Talal and the surrounding areas.

The club, Dr. Abdullat said, will present a detailed report on its operations in the area and the most common diseases among the citizens.

He pointed that the club usually conducts a survey on the area to assess the medical situation and its surrounding circumstances.

Team returns from ILO Geneva meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour Saleh Al Tarawneh Friday returned to Amman after heading Jordan's delegation to the 80th Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which convened in Geneva between June 9 and 23.

At the outset of the session, the Jordanian delegation was headed by Jordan's envoy to the United Nations Geneva headquarters Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf who delivered the Kingdom's address to the conference.

It focused on the Jordanian

government's labour and employment policies and social security plans and programmes.

The address also expressed support for a report prepared by the ILO director general on Arab labourers in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Of the most prominent issues discussed by the conferees were social security, unemployment, fighting poverty, the ILO activities, ways of preventing industrial disasters and the role of the organisation in enhancing technical cooperation.

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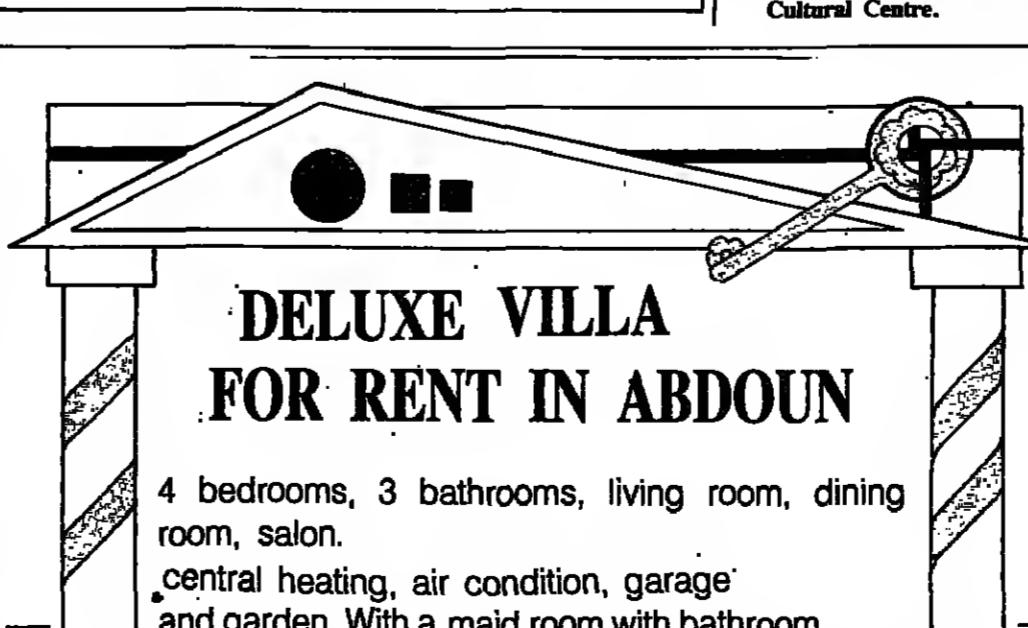
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FRI 18:10	20:35

AMMAN - ANTALYA	
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Right change for democracy

REPRESENTATIVES FROM all shades of Jordan's political spectrum will later this month be called to study the possibilities of changing the Election Law on the constitutional basis that all citizens are equal in rights and duties. The step is expected to generate strong opposition from members of Parliament and other political forces who have maintained that changes to the law would be neither legal nor democratic unless approved by the Lower House.

The disagreement over the legality of changing the Election Law through a temporary legislation — an issue on which parties from both sides of the fence present arguments they claim have the weight of law — will have to be settled by specialists in the appropriate forum and, until now, is a point of contention. What is crystal clear, however, is that the current law is not conducive to fair elections. On that issue, there does not seem to be much division among Jordanians.

The problems with the legislation are many: It leads to over-representation of some parts and groups in the country and to under-representation of others; it denies citizens the constitutional right to equality — one can elect more candidates than the other, and, among other things, it prevents citizens who have reached the legal age from voting.

That needs to be changed but the challenge is articulating the alternative. Having Jordanians go to the next polls under a new law that guarantees equality for all citizens without disturbing the delicate political and social balance of the country is a task which people who will undertake should approach with utmost care, objectivity and concern for the country's long-term stability and well-being.

Most of the debate about the nature of the possible change have so far centred on introducing the one-person-one-vote system to the law. Such a change, however, would not bring about the desired outcome unless it is accompanied by corresponding changes in redrawing districts, the voting age, the quota system and the bureaucracy of voters' registration.

In short, any changes to the law should be all-encompassing and designed to endure for a long time. It would be against the country's interest to keep changing the law every few years.

Jordan does need a new and fairer election law, one that ensures stability and the consolidation of democracy. But the one thing that needs to be reemphasised here is that changes in the law should not be perceived to be targeting one or other political group in particular. That could be done both by the inclusion of all political forces in the process of change and by addressing all loopholes in the current law. No political group should be given the chance to claim it was the victim of the change and thus jump on the wagon of martyrs to reach Jordan's 12th Parliament.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ENTHUSIASTIC welcome accorded to King Hussein during his current visit to the United States reflects the respect which the Monarch enjoys among nations and the much improved U.S.-Jordanian ties in the wake of the Gulf crisis, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily. Over the past 40 years, the King has succeeded in winning the respect of the world community, and through his efforts, he was able to gain support for Arab rights and continued backing for his struggle to attain peace in the Middle East, said the paper. The Clinton administration has listened carefully and attentively to the King's ideas and welcomed his views towards the establishment of peace and stability in the region, continued the writer. The result was that the U.S. administration has now expressed absolute willingness to act seriously and with renewed efforts to give momentum to the Arab-Israeli negotiations for the sake of attaining the aspired peace, the paper added. There is no doubt, said the paper, that the King's visit was successful and his talks with Mr. Clinton and U.S. officials have borne good fruit. It said that the visit and the fruitful talks are bound to reflect most positively on the U.S.-Jordanian relations.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour cast a pessimistic view at the outcome of the current 10th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington. Mazen Hammad said that it was strange to hear U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announcing that progress was about to be achieved in the current talks as there are no signs to justify such optimism. Is it a real conception or prediction or just throwing dust in the eyes and stalling for time before the formal announcement that the talks ended in total failure? asked the writer. If progress is to be achieved in the coming few days, as Mr. Christopher claims, the U.S. secretary did not give any reason for such optimism, neither did he mention any concessions on the part of the Israelis to help achieve some progress, said the writer. Hammad said that there has been no let-up in the obstinate Israeli stand, neither did the Israeli government ease its inhuman measures against the Palestinians to pave the ground for a settlement. He said that there is no indication yet that the Israelis are willing to grant the Palestinians autonomous rule that would be followed by an independent state. One has to wait and see, said the writer, whether the Israelis and the Palestinians will soon reach agreement on a declaration of common principles for settling the issue, and if that is forthcoming, added the writer, one could say that a little progress has been achieved.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

King's visit to U.S. bound to boost peace talks

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

JORDANIAN ARABIC dailies in the past week focused attention on His Majesty King Hussein's current visit to the United States, the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington and domestic issues.

In an article entitled "The 10th round of peace talks and a step backwards," Ibrahim Al Absi, who writes for Al Ra'i Arabic daily, east a very gloomy look at the current talks held in Washington between the Arab and Israeli delegations.

The United States, which had pledged to play the role of full partner in the peace process, has once again proved to be totally biased towards Israel, advocating the Israeli delegation's views and ideas supporting the Israeli government in its repression of the Palestinians, said the writer.

It is clear that the United States is playing the role of full supporter of Israel, exercising pressures on the Palestinians and the Arab delegations, said the writer. He said that there can be no chance for the current talks to make a headway, in light of the U.S. administration's attitude.

In the view of Hamad Faraneh, a columnist in Al Dustour, the current talks in Washington do not aim at implementing the U.N. Security Council resolutions, but rather at drawing up a new map for the Arab region in favour of Israel's expansionist policies and U.S. interests.

If the current talks do not achieve any progress towards a settlement, one can only feel delighted because it reflects the strong unity of the Arab parties vis-a-vis the U.S.-Israeli alliance, said the writer.

It has been clear that the Americans are continually pressuring the Arabs to give Israel more concessions, while no pressure is being applied on Israel to end its intransigence.

What the Arab masses hope, said the writer, is continued cohesion among the Arab parties in order to abort the Israeli-American plots.

Salamch Ekour criticises the current U.S.-Israeli military cooperation, noting that news about such cooperation has been announced during the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington. If Israel is truly inclined towards peace with the Arabs, why then is news leaked about agreements between Washington and the Jewish state on developing bal-

listic missiles and advanced war planes? asked the writer in Sawt Al Shaab.

Of course the Arabs are justified to pursue the course of peace, said the writer, but what are they doing vis-a-vis such cooperation among their enemies in the military field? he went on. The Arabs should, like Israel, contemplate the military option and think seriously of arming themselves in self-defence, he demanded.

Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that there can be no progress in the peace talks unless Israel gives up its intransigent position with regard to the status of Jerusalem. The Arabs are now testing the United States' credibility and waiting to see if the U.S. administration is serious about its claim that it will be playing the role of full partner in the peace process, said the writer.

He said that before the start of the 10th round, and during the past week, the feeling of disappointment has been deepening among the Arabs who are truly inclined towards peace and this is mainly because Washington has not yet lived up to expectations, said the writer. He said that unless the U.S. administration acted in the direction of settling the issue over Jerusalem, the current round would not achieve any result.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that King Hussein's visit to the United States and his talks with the Clinton administration officials are bound to improve the atmosphere of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and give impetus to the process aimed at achieving peace.

The King has repeatedly warned against losing the present opportunity of reaching a durable settlement, noting that the Middle East could be facing a new cycle of hostilities and unrest, said the daily.

The paper echoed the King's call for full implementation of U.N. resolutions and respect of the international legitimacy if a durable peace is to be attained.

Sultan Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the King has delivered the Arab Nation's message to the United States that it seeks peace and justice. Besides seeking improved U.S.-Jordanian relations, the King has made it clear that Jordan was trying to present itself as a model of democracy before the world in general and the Arab region in particular, said the writer.

Hattab noted that the King

has made it clear that through pursuing the struggle towards democracy and pluralism, Jordan was trying to prevent violence and explosive situations similar to those that have been taking place in Egypt, Somalia, Algeria, Yugoslavia and other parts of the world.

Salah Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, accused the Israeli intelligence, the Mossad, of being behind the current spate of explosions in Egypt, Israel, and not the Islamists, has a real interest in undermining the Egyptian economy by scaring off tourists and shaking the unity of the Egyptian society, said the writer.

One has to realise that the Arabs' struggle with Israel is one of survival and it should be realised that Israel would stop at nothing in order to weaken the Arabs and dominate their region.

Mousa Kilani, a columnist in Al Dustour, strongly attacked the United States for linking its aid to the Arab and Islamic governments, to these countries' readiness to seize the Islamic moment. Citing a report in the Washington Post, the writer said that the U.S. administration has recently made it clear to Turkey that American aid to Ankara would only be forthcoming when and if the Turkish government took serious steps to fight the Islamists.

Another advocate of the Muslim communities was Abdul Rahim Omar who said that while the United Nations continues its efforts to fight the warlords in Somalia and end the civil strife there, it is doing nothing to save the Muslims from the Serbian aggression. The columnist, who writes in Al Ra'i, said that the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina are being denied the right to arm themselves in the face of the onslaught while the Serbs are being encouraged to annihilate the civilian population, with the United Nations standing idle, offering no help to save the innocent civilians.

Ahmed Dabbas, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that Jordan has played a humanitarian role in hosting the Bosnian families and offering help to the displaced civilians. Despite its meagre resources and difficult economic circumstances, the Kingdom is extending a helping hand to those facing aggression, as it did to the hundreds of thousands of refugees and expatriates in the wake of the Gulf war, said the writer.

He said that the world com-

munity should take lessons from the Jordanian charitable act and the Kingdom's manifestation of compassion towards any human beings facing the threat of death.

Nazib, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, criticised Radio Jordan's foreign service for broadcasting a variety of songs and news about the outside world without tackling domestic issues.

The writer said that a news bulletin or a programme on the foreign service seldom tackle an issue of concern to the residents of Jordan, the radio rather covers those topics that are of interest to the higher social classes, like receptions held at hotels and bazaars that are only attended by the wealthier. Nothing about the economy, culture and social life in Jordan, he said, is being discussed or reported by Radio Jordan's foreign service.

Saleh Al Ekmur, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, criticised the local political parties for failing to discuss the social and economic life in the various governorates, particularly in the rural regions of Jordan.

One can easily detect the difficult living conditions of people outside Amman from the complaints aired over the call-in-radio programme, said the writer.

He said that the people in the rural regions complain of lack of health and social services and appeal for help from the central authorities in Amman, while political parties newspaper suffice themselves with discussions of the situation in the former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan.

Fahd Al Fazek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the executive authority alone has the power and the prerogative to determine whether an amendment to the present Election Law should be introduced or not in the absence of the legislative authority.

The writer said that those who oppose the government's amendment of the law have only the courts to complain to, but they cannot deprive the government of its right to issue temporary laws considered necessary to ensure social justice.

The writer said that no one had opposed the government's decision to abolish the martial law without referring to Parliament, and it would be foolish now to stop the government from taking other important decisions to safeguard the national interest.

Experts look for terrorism to get worse, not better

By Ruth Sinai

The Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. — Toxins fumigated through air conditioning vents? Nuclear weapons detonated on a city street? A missile fired at an airport?

It used to be the material of science fiction and thriller novels.

No more, say U.S. and international terrorism experts who gathered here last week at the Pentagon's request to map the future of terrorism.

Their conclusion: Prospects for terrorist attacks are ever-expanding and increasingly chilling.

The U.S. government, worried that it lacks a long-term strategy to deal with catastrophic attacks at home and abroad, has undertaken an ambitious project to divine the future of terrorism until 2010: who will carry out attacks, how, when and where, and against whom?

"We need to know the array of things that can slam dunk us, even those eventualities that appear a remote threat but could have devastating impact," said Air Force Col. E. Douglas Menachik, terrorism policy director at the Department of Defense.

The grim future predicted by terrorism experts stands in contrast to current statistics: in 1992, according to an annual State Department report, the number of international terrorist attacks dropped to 361 — the lowest level in 17 years.

But experts argue that the number of domestic terrorist attacks around the world is constantly growing and can affect U.S. interests even if Americans aren't targeted. And, they say, statistics are misleading because a devastating attack like the 1988 killing of 270 people on Pan Am Flight 103 is counted the same as a grenade attack on an American Express office in Europe that

shatters two windows.

Primarily, these experts contend that the downward trend is being reversed by two major developments: the disintegration of the Soviet Bloc that is spawning national and ethnic strife in Europe, and the rise of Muslim militancy in the Middle East.

The latter has spread its tentacles as far as New York. The February bombing of the World Trade Centre — allegedly the work of fervent Muslims — brought home to Americans that they were no longer immune from the terrorism that has plagued Europe and the Middle East.

The latter has spread its tentacles as far as New York. The February bombing of the World Trade Centre — allegedly the work of fervent Muslims — brought home to Americans that they were no longer immune from the terrorism that has plagued Europe and the Middle East.

In fact, despite the drop in international attacks, Americans continue to account for about 40 per cent of the targets, according to the State Department report.

Experts are divided on whether terrorists will resort to chemical, biological or even nuclear warfare.

The unrest in Europe, a result

of powerful nationalist forces and massive immigration flows, is of great concern to terrorism specialists who note that it was a single assassin's bullet in a destabilised Europe that launched World War I in 1914.

Growing neo-Nazi terrorism in Germany could end up killing more people than the Marxist groups active in the 1970s, said Paul Wilkinson, a British counter-terrorism specialist. Already this year, he said, 22 people have been killed.

German fascist groups have in the past had loose contacts with white supremacists in the United States, said Bruce Hoffman, a terrorism expert at the Rand Corporation. Mr. Hoffman and others said American groups could become emboldened by the growing strength of their European squatters.

Experts are divided on whether terrorists will resort to chemical, biological or even nuclear warfare.

The unrest in Europe, a result

Rights conference — major breakthrough for women

By Wendy Lubetkin

VIENNA — Hundreds of women's rights groups from around the world are proving to be the most "dynamic force" at the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights, says Felice Gaer, a public member of the U.S. delegation to the conference. "They are the most well-organised, and they are the most focused on their objective — which is putting women's rights on the world human rights agenda," Ms. Gaer, executive director of Jacob Blaustein Institute for Human Rights, explained in an interview midway through the two-week meeting.

Women's efforts, Ms. Gaer, now dovetail with those of the U.S. delegation, which has "turned a corner" and made the integration of women's rights throughout the U.N. system an important goal at the conference.

Rallying under the slogan "Women's Rights are Human Rights," women's rights groups have cast spotlight on issues such as violence against women, sexual exploitation, genital mutilation, female infanticide,

during the conference revealed that about a third of the activities focused on women's issues. Groups ranging from Women Living under Muslim Law to the Asian Women's Human Rights Council are participating in workshops and debate, on a wide range of topics — which is uniting all the women's groups here is how to prevent violence against women.

"If you are looking for an issue that is truly universal, it is violence against women," said U.S. delegation member Arvonne Fraser, a U.S. State Department fact sheet circulated at the conference points out that violence against women is rarely seen as a human rights violation, "even though abuse of such magnitude against any other group would be recognised as a major humanitarian emergency."

To focus international attention on the issue, a coalition of women's groups organised an 11-hour "Global Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights" on the second day of the conference. Over a thousand women, including a Pakistani woman who related how she had been set afire by her own family, a Korean "comfort woman," and an Afro-American woman who told of battery in the home by her former husband, a police officer.

Women from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Somalia and other war-torn regions said that war crimes were being perpetrated against women in the name of "moral boosting" and "ethnic cleansing." Evidence submitted to the tribunal also included an Iranian document specifying the size of the stones which could be thrown at women accused of adultery.

Earlier this year, the 1993 session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission decided in principle to appoint a U.N. special rapporteur to investigate violence against women, a U.S.-supported measure which is endorsed and

welcomed in the draft final declaration of the World Conference. The U.S. wants the special rapporteur's mandate to include the power to investigate battering in the family, rape, female infanticide, "honour killings," "dowry murder," and other violence related to traditional and customary practices.

Women's groups also welcomed Mr. Christopher's announcement that the Clinton administration will push for ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) after the Senate ratifies another U.N. convention on racism.

CEDAW is the primary international legal instrument to protect women's human rights. Constitutional, legislative and other measures described in the convention seek to promote equality through affirmative action, maternity protection, equal employment opportunities, and equality before the law.

To date 120 countries have ratified the convention and are thus legally bound to put its provisions into practice. But women's rights advocates point out that many states have attached reservations to the treaty which are so fundamental that they basically negate its purpose. In addition, Ms. Gaer noted, many countries which have ratified the convention do not have fully developed legal systems, and women have no recourse for enforcement.

"The difference with America is that when we sign a treaty, that means we are actually going to implement it," Ms.

King concludes official visit to Washington

(Continued from page 1)

States, as the co-sponsor of the talks along with Russia, "is to try to help the negotiations be successful," Mr. Christopher said. "And if there's something that would break down the impediments that now exist, of course, we'd want to cooperate with that."

Following is the transcript of remarks by Mr. Christopher and King Hussein prior to their meeting at the State Department.

Mr. Christopher: I'm most pleased to welcome to the State Department His Majesty King Hussein. He is a long-time friend of the United States. We are very fortunate to be having an extended visit here ranging over several days, and I can tell you that it's been a very, very successful visit. We are most admiring of the steps that the King has taken toward democratisation in his country. They have been very progressive and very desirable steps.

We are also indebted to him for his consistent support of the peace process in the Middle East. I think he has been a leader in this area for some time and I am very grateful to have him assisting us in trying to move that process forward. Of course, we are also grateful to him for the enforcement of the United Nations sanctions in the Middle East against Iraq. This is a visit in which we have emphasised a number of very close and common purposes that we have with his country and also emphasised our long-time friendship with him. So, your Majesty, it's a great honour and pleasure to have you here at the State Department.

King Hussein: Thank you very much indeed. Thank you very much, sir. Today is my last day in Washington. I would like to say how happy I have been with the visit — with the privilege of meeting the President, with the impression he left upon me of his knowledge, his determination to contribute his utmost for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and durable peace in our

region. He struck me, as he must have struck the American people, as a man of principle, a genuine person, and I am indeed proud of the friendship that has come to be between us. I believe that this continues a friendship which has been there between our two countries over many, many years — certainly the forty years of time when I had the honour to serve and lead the people of Jordan.

Our ideas are the same — objectives, principles that we uphold — and we hope that we can contribute towards the breaking of the new dawn of peace and better future for the generations to come in our region and to cooperate in many fields and areas the world over. I thank you very, very much indeed, sir, and I thank all our friends who have made it such a wonderful and memorable visit. This is indeed a chance for us, as old friends, again maybe to have some talks before we prepare to leave Croatia.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, Finance Minister Sami Gammie, Planning Minister Zeid Fariz, Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Fayed Tarawneh and Chief of Royal Protocol Mohamad Al Adwan.

Mr. Christopher: We remain committed to the letters of assurances that were given in connection with the Madrid Conference and the restarting of the peace negotiations. We have indicated that to the parties as the process was restarted here in the United States. We are working closely with the parties in that difficult subject. We have been in close touch with all the bilateral negotiations. They are of a substantive level, and the parties are grappling with some extremely difficult issues. The King has lent his support to us in trying to resolve those issues; and, as I say, I would confirm that the United States continues to support the letters of assurance that were given at the time of the Madrid Conference.

Q: Mr. Secretary, on that topic, "But we hope that those talks, Senator Mitchel and Sen. Dole held talks with the King in a joint meeting and later expressed hope that Congress could have a better working relationship with Jordan. Mr. Mitchell said after the meeting:

"Senator Dole and I had a good and very friendly and informative meeting with the King and we look forward to the meeting with the larger group of senators as is our practice."

"We told him that he brought us together today we have been debating the budget, and we have been on opposite sides on the budget for a couple of days and it took the King to bring us together and we appreciate that."

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this morning both the Syrians and the Israelis alluded to the fact that there may need to be some change in the Madrid format. Is that something that the administration is working on or would be open to?

Mr. Christopher: We think that the emphasis ought to be on dealing with the substantive problems. I'm not sure that there is any need for process or procedural changes; and, as I have said before, it seems to me that it is desirable not to get bogged down by procedural changes. At the same time, we don't close our mind to anything the parties would suggest; but we're the sponsors along with Russia, and I think that our main goal is to try to help the negotiations be successful. If there is something that would break down the impediments that now exist of course we would want to cooperate with that. Thank you.

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6 Economy

Summers: Japan's surplus is drain on world exports, jobs

TOKYO (AFP) — U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers said Friday that Japan could boost global exports by some \$60 billion and create up to two million jobs worldwide by curbing its current account surplus.

"Japan has a major stake in the health of the world economy and the world economy has a major stake in Japan's economic performance," he said, adding that its external surpluses were a "significant drag on world growth."

Mr. Summers, who was chief economist at the World Bank before joining the Clinton administration, conceded at a seminar here that the U.S. trade deficit was "the major imbalance in the world economy" in the mid-1980s.

"Now Japan's surplus is the major asymmetry," he said. "And its imbalance has evolved from a surplus largely concentrated with the United States to a surplus spread roughly evenly across Asia, Europe and North America."

Japan's current account surplus, measuring trade in goods and services as well as some other financial transfers, swelled 40 per cent from a year earlier to a record \$126 billion in the year to March.

Although a regional breakdown is not yet available, customs-cleared figures show a trade surplus of \$11 billion in the same period including surpluses of \$46 billion with the United States, \$44 billion with Asia and \$31 billion with the European Community.

Mr. Summers noted that while Japan's current account surplus had plunged from four per cent of gross national product (GNP) in 1987 to less than 1.5 per cent in 1990, it was now expected to rebound to four per cent again in 1994.

"What the world needs from Japan now is a sustained period of domestic demand-led growth, a period when the demand for

goods in Japan exceeds the domestic supply, so that Japan is a net provider of jobs rather than a net drain on jobs in the rest of the world," he said.

"The extra demand that would be created by a return of the Japanese current account surplus to its historically average level of 1.5 per cent of GNP would be enough to create more than \$60 billion in additional exports from the rest of the world which translates into an extra one or two million jobs," he explained.

Mr. Summers said such a cut was a "prudent and realistic objective for the Japanese government," rejecting the idea that it had already done enough with two fiscal stimulus packages worth 24 trillion yen (\$220 billion).

He said Japan had more scope to boost spending that other members of the Group of Seven (G-7) — the United States, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — whose leaders are holding their annual in Tokyo in a fortnight.

"Japan still has by far the largest fiscal cushion in the G-7. Even after two stimulus packages, Japan still has a structural general government surplus and the net stock of outstanding publicly-held debt is still remarkably small in comparison with the rest of the G-7," he pointed out.

Mr. Summers also dismissed the notion, often pushed by Japanese finance ministry officials who control the purse strings, that Japan has to restrain public spending to finance one of the world's most rapidly-ageing populations.

"My response to that is that public investment in highways and hospitals is a better way to prepare for the challenge of an ageing society rather than the prodigious accumulation of low-yielding financial assets," he emphasised.

Commissioner says EC seeks new jobs policies

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Community (EC) is seeking fundamental changes in employment policy in order to create jobs, the EC's Social Affairs and Employment Commissioner Padraig Flynn, said here Thursday.

Addressing an EC employment committee, he said social charges and workplace regulations imposed on businesses could be lowered if management agreed in return to employ more people.

Earlier this week, an EC summit in Copenhagen ordered a study of high labour costs along with an accelerated investment programme in order to fight mounting unemployment and help pull the Community out of economic recession.

According to official estimates, the EC's combined economy will shrink by 0.5 per cent this year, and unemployment will climb to 12 per cent next year — meaning 20 million people out of work.

Mr. Flynn stressed the importance of labour-intensive production in tackling the crisis.

"Our analyses suggest that we may often tax the labour-intensive jobs relatively more. Is this not just the opposite of what we want to achieve?" he asked.

Mr. Flynn reiterated a suggestion made at the EC summit by Commission President Jacques Delors — that revenue to maintain social standards be raised through energy taxes rather than charges on employers.

He said well over one million new jobs could be created by the end of the decade in environmental industries, not only to fight

pollution but also to develop new environmentally friendly technologies.

The commissioner named arts and culture plus health care as potential growth industries for employment, if they were properly exploited.

And he urged a closer look at work-sharing. "Something is wrong in the system if employers are encouraged to offer existing employees long overtime hours on an on-going basis, rather than create additional jobs," he said.

Mr. Flynn stressed the need for continuous high-quality training of workers.

"In 10 years' time, 80 per cent of existing technologies will be out of date, but 80 per cent of the workforce will still be working," he said.

Senate narrowly approves Clinton's economic plan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Senate approved an amended version of President Bill Clinton's deficit reduction plan Friday by the narrowest of margins, with Vice President Al Gore casting the deciding vote.

On a vote of 50 to 49, senators approved Mr. Clinton's blueprint for slashing the federal deficit by \$500 billion over the next five years, mainly by raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations and cutting spending on social programmes.

"Tonight, the Senate voted for growth over gridlock by passing our plan ... (and) sent a strong signal to middle-class Americans that Washington can work to create jobs, increase incomes, and spur economic growth," Mr. Clinton said in a statement after the pre-dawn vote.

Six Democrats and all the Republican Senators voted against the plan, forcing Mr. Gore, who as vice president is also president of the Senate, to cast the deciding vote. It was the first such vote since 1987.

The House had already passed its own version of the deficit reduction plan which will have to be reconciled with the Senate's draft in a conference bringing

together members of both houses of Congress.

Congressional sources said the conference could begin as early as next week but would likely take several weeks to come up with a compromise plan.

Both versions call for cutting the federal deficit by \$500 billion over the next five years by raising taxes on the nation's wealthiest.

The Senate version would put 87 per cent of the deficit-cutting burden on those earning more than \$100,000 a year, while the House's version — practically identical to Mr. Clinton's original plan — would get 90 per cent of the money by raising taxes on incomes higher than \$50,000.

Mr. Clinton's much criticised, broad-based energy tax was drastically reduced by the Senate to apply to motor fuels only, raising some \$24 billion. That compares to the House version that kept Mr. Clinton's proposal largely intact and called for taxes on electricity, natural gas, coal and oil products, raising \$72 billion.

Jet fuel was exempted from the energy tax in the Senate version to spare the ailing airlines from further financial erosion.

The most hotly debated issues in the economic package were the

proposed spending cuts, with billionaire Ross Perot talking to reporters outside the Capitol, endorsing the Republican's call to reduce the deficit by cutting spending first.

The biggest spending cuts would come from restraining the growth of reimbursements for health care for the poor, a programme called Medicaid, and for the elderly.

The Senate scaled back the House version's Medicare cuts from \$50 billion to \$41 billion.

Both bills include major breaks for lower-income earners through an earned-income tax credit.

"The differences between the House and Senate bills are not as great as some would have us believe," said Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, adding that the bottom line in both versions was cutting the deficit by \$500 billion as Mr. Clinton had proposed.

The Senate version, however, falls more than \$150 billion short of the goal — it includes \$245 billion in new taxes but only \$100 billion in guaranteed spending reductions.

It relies on later congressional action and savings on interest to produce the remaining amount.

Bonn fights recession with \$11.7 billion savings package

BONN (R) — Germany's ruling centre-right coalition has approved a 20 billion mark (\$51.7 billion) savings package that cuts benefit payments to the jobless and is aimed at giving the Bundesbank room for more interest-rate cuts.

Coalition party leaders, at a meeting late Wednesday chaired by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, gave their blessings to a savings package that would cut federal spending by 20 billion marks in 1994, the finance ministry said.

Budget savings would rise to 25 billion marks (\$14.6 billion) next year and between 27 billion and 30 billion marks (\$15.8 billion to \$17.54 billion) in 1996. Including cuts in state and municipal budgets, the total public spending package would likely be higher.

At least half of the savings will be achieved by a three per cent cut in jobless benefit and by cutting payment to 24 months from 32, the ministry said. Long-term jobless benefit, currently paid indefinitely, will also be cut by three per cent and restricted to two years.

Salaries for civil servants would be frozen next year, farm subsidies would be cut, some government-funded community projects postponed, and some unspecified tax write-offs axed.

According to coalition sources, Finance Minister Theo Waigel also wants to make deeper cuts to social services and some compensation paid by the Federal Labour Office. He has been seeking ways to trim the office's widening budget deficit, which threatens to grow out of control as German unemployment is forecast to rise to between four million and five million.

The coalition parliamentary groups will vote on the savings package next week and after that the plan will be put to Mr. Kohl's cabinet for a decision on July 13.

Rudolf Scharping, designated

chairman of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), criticised the spending cuts but said it was time to "modernise the social welfare state."

"This cannot be done without reaching into the lives of nearly everyone in Germany," he said in an article for the weekly *Wirtschafts Woche* magazine. "But what we do not need is a Rambo-style social and economic policy."

But facing Germany's worst post-war recession, Mr. Waigel must cut spending fast to rein in the widening budget deficit and give the Bundesbank room to lower its leading interest rates and help the limping economy back on its feet.

The government officially forecasts a record 1993 shortfall of 67.6 billion marks (\$39.6 billion), up from earlier forecasts of 43 billion marks (\$25.19 billion), and from a 1992 deficit of 39 billion marks (\$22.85 billion).

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LONDON (R) — Jacques Attali, the flamboyant and controversial president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), resigned Friday, saying press attacks against him had begun to undermine the bank's work.

In a letter to the chairwoman of the EBRD's board of governors, Swedish Finance Minister Anne Wible, the 49-year-old French economist said the bank had come under "increasing negative press attention in recent months."

"Unfortunately, this attention has begun to have a detrimental effect on the bank's work and on its staff, and it is with the interests

of the bank in mind that I have taken this decision," Mr. Attali added.

The EBRD began operations two years ago and was set up to aid the transition to Western-style free markets in the former communist nations of Eastern Europe. All major Western and East European countries are among its 56 shareholders.

But the past months have been

fraught with controversy, focusing mainly on Mr. Attali's dictatorial management style and revelations which broke in April that the EBRD had spent \$55 million on fitting out its new London headquarters. The result was an international furor and the start of what, with hindsight, was a campaign by some major international shareholders to unseat Mr. Attali.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 26, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Any irritations can be cleared up nicely during the AM and you will be kept busily occupied throughout the afternoon and evening. Avoid one who has taken your time in the past without following through.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get off to some new condition that can be your operating influence. Try sometime to come and avoid and sidestep a bigwig with his/her own axe to grind.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't give up a proven condition for some new idea that appeals to you but requires profound study before it can be rightly understood.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider home issues and although they look difficult early, later in the morning you can handle them while tonight relaxations can be a duoy for you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't let an early worry keep you from getting into letting contacts know of your wishes to improve some phase of your existence.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) The morning is the best place to put your most serious considerations for they can improve conditions there and avoid taking any risks or gambles.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think in terms of the recreations and amusements that you want to enjoy with those with the same sense of humour as yourself and make dates during the day.

Despite upbeat state forecasts, outlook for Philippines is bleak

MANILA (Agencies) — Despite upbeat forecasts by President Fidel Ramos, the Philippines' economic outlook appears bleak due to intractable problems of electricity and infrastructure inherited from the previous government.

Mr. Ramos said that of the 512 multi-national corporations which had regional headquarters which had regional headquarters here five years ago, only 163 remain.

One of the chief reasons for the economic stagnation is the energy crisis, which has forced electric utility companies to cut more than six hours a day in the Manila area.

The National Power Corp., predicts the blackouts will last "only" four hours a day by September if there is sufficient rain for hydroelectric plants.

But officials admit the power problem will persist until at least 1996 because existing plants need extensive maintenance and transmission lines are unreliable.

"Your leadership does not give the country even the very minimum, and I think we have reached the point where we can-

not do the part (which should be) done by the Filipinos," Xavier Reumaux, president of an association of foreign businessmen, recently told the newspaper Businessworld.

Mr. Reumaux said that of the

250 multi-national corporations which had regional headquarters here five years ago, only 163 remain.

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But officials admit the power problem will persist until at least 1996 because existing plants need extensive maintenance and transmission lines are unreliable.

Without the remittances, the economy would have shown a decline of 0.17 per cent, according to the National Statistics

Board.

Moreover, the government has failed to make substantial progress in chronic problem areas such as tax collection, trade and tariff reform, selling off state-run companies and other infrastructure including inadequate telephones and transportation.

Last week, Christopher Browne, the representative of the International Monetary Fund, expressed frustration at the slow pace of economic reform, especially tax collection.

Browne also suggested to re-

porters that Mr. Ramos was not receiving proper advice from his cabinet about the urgency of the economic crisis.

"I believe the crunch is coming in the next few months," Mr. Browne said. "Without new revenue measures, the government could face serious problems."

Rather than considering the comment constructive criticism, the government reacted sharply

in a xenophobic style. Several legislators urged the government to expel Mr. Browne, and Mr. Ramos' own spokesman, Jesus Sison, said the president was angry at the remarks.

"The harsh fact is that most of the things Mr. Browne said are true," former undersecretary of the budget Ben Diokno wrote in the Manila Chronicle. "The domestic economy is barely out of the sickbed after more than a year and a half of severe stabilisation measures."

In another report, the Philippine government has approved local assembly of Mercedes-Benz cars, with the first units to be sold in October.

Officials said here that the prestigious German brand entered a new luxury category for locally assembled cars through a local partner, the Commercial Motors Corp. (CMC), which already assembles Mercedes-Benz trucks.

Two models will be initially

offered in the local market: The gasoline-powered 220E and diesel-powered 300D sedans, to be sold at 2.83 million pesos and 2.74 million pesos (\$104,800 and \$101,480) respectively.

CMC is expected to target wealthy Filipinos and expatriates. Foreigners will be able to purchase the cars at much lower prices.

The trade and industry department said CMC is to invest 311 million pesos (\$11.5 million) and employ nearly 1,500 people for the project. The export of Mercedes-Benz components is forecast to fetch \$178 million over a five-year period, it added.

The major car assemblers in the Philippines are Japanese giants Toyota, Mitsubishi and Nissan. Another German luxury carmaker, BMW, has also expressed interest in entering the growing local market, with vehicle sales expected to top 45,000 this year from only 28,000 in 1992.



JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET
NODING BANK CENTER, AMMAN - SHAMSIA
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 665170
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 16/06/1993 - 20/06/1993



WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. JD	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE
AMMAN NATIONAL BANK	5,192,370	7,949	7,916	7,140	
CAIRO ANBAN BANK	1,817,550	7,949	7,916	7,140	
BANK OF JORDAN	106,845	9,469	9,000	41,000	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1,120,220	4,150	4,150	4,720	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	231,071	2,100	2,150	2,150	
THE HOUSING BANK	995,271	4,340	6,900	4,800	
ARMED FORCES BANK	692,211	6,000	6,940	5,240	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	328,587	2,030	2,120	2,200	
OPIC BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	107,763	4,199	4,080	4,100	
BUSINESS BANK	104,855	4,130	4,440	4,880	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,425,232	4,700	4,250	4,850	
JOHN ELLIOTT INTERNATIONAL TRUST FOR HOUSING	124,706	7,400	7,350	7,400	
ARMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	85,197	5,350	5,150	5,150	
ARMAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	732,325	1,100	1,120	1,120	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	33,547	5,150	5,150	5,070	
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	159,290	4,150	4,080	4,900	
MIDDLE EAST EXCHANGE	2,250	3,600	9,320	3,700	
JORDANIAN SEAS INSURANCE	45,000	5,770	5,820	5,200	
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	9,344	5,770	5,820	5,200	
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	120,680	6,000	6,000	6,000	
ARMAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	92,388	3,250	3,950	3,930	
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	415	3,950	9,850	3,050	
AL-HIJR AL-ARAB INSURANCE	539,922	2,100	2,250	3,000	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	128,325	1,100	1,120	1,120	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY	5,449	8,000	8,000	9,000	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2,251,169	2,380	9,420	9,700	
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	66,718	1,910	1,320	1,450	
JORDAN TOURIST & SPA COMPLEX	9,054	6,000	2,200	2,200	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	8,442	5,150	5,150	5,150	
ARMAN EQUITY INVESTMENT	187,737	4,000	4,450	4,100	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	10,302	2,100	1,800	1,800	
HACHIMAY EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	19,235	1,770	1,780	1,770	
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / AL-KHA'IR	10,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING / AD-DUSTOUR	19,387	1,770	1,780	1,780	
JORDAN PRINTING & EDUCATION	24,327	1,300	1,300	1,300	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	59,958	15,000	19,320	16,600	
JORDAN TANNING	7,472	8,200	8,100	8,300	
HOUDI INDUSTRIES	16,278	2,200	2,200	2,200	
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	900,929	8,490	8,490	8,980	
JORDAN WOMEN'S STYLERS	103,240	1,200	1,200	1,200	
ARMAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	442,260	24,200	30,800	24,200	
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	28,893	1,850	1,940	2,150	
JORDAN DAIRY	1,259,977	2,300	2,320	2,350	
THE JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	146,434	4,200	4,400	4,300	
JORDAN PETROLEUM MINES	146,734	2,900	2,500	2,740	
THE ARAB POTASH	181,922	11,600	11,600	11,700	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	7,472	8,200	8,100	8,300	
JORDAN TANNING	16,278	2,200	2,200	2,200	
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Azerbaijani president ousted; Aliyev takes over in Baku

MOSCOW (AP) — Azerbaijani parliament ousted embattled President Abulfaz Elchibey and transferred power to former Communist boss Gaidar Aliyev in a bid to end the three-week-old political crisis in the former Soviet republic.

Mr. Elchibey immediately denounced the move as "unconstitutional" and a "coup d'etat", according to his spokesman quoted by the Turkish Anatolia News Agency Friday in a report from Nakhichevan, the president's home republic where he fled last week.

The president said Mr. Elchibey "had not resigned" and "is still president of Azerbaijan."

The wild cards Friday were rebel military commander Surat Guseinov — who led a June 4 rebellion in Gyandzha, the country's second city, that triggered Mr. Elchibey's flight from the capital — and members of Mr. Elchibey's Popular Front party.

Their marches in the last week

who brought him to power on a tide of nationalist support last June.

Neither reacted immediately to the change. Col. Guseinov, 34, asserted Wednesday he was assuming power.

Several hundred Guseinov rebels were still camped outside the capital Friday, where they had advanced last week to press for Mr. Elchibey's ouster. They were positioned on both roads linking Baku to the west.

But the capital was calm, with government and rebel troops jointly manning checkpoints on roads into Baku.

The Popular Front called for a demonstration in downtown Baku later Friday. But the broad support it managed to drum up last year has dwindled sharply as the country's economy has slumped, drained by the war with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Elchibey's supporters, deputy Ibrahim Ibrahimov, blasted the

vote as "completing the coup started in Gyandzha in early June", when government forces were sent in to quell the Guseinov rebellion. A bloodbath resulted in which 69 people were killed, most of them Col. Guseinov's troops.

The 70-year-old former first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party was to give a press conference in Baku. Unconfirmed reports said he might set up a new government with Col. Guseinov as defence minister.

Interfax News Agency said the Baku parliament voted late Thursday 33 to three to oust Mr. Elchibey, who had come to power last June in a popular vote after a power struggle that forced out former pro-Communist President Ayaz Mutalibov. Thirty-seven of the 51 legislators were present for the vote, in which one abstained.

Col. Guseinov, quoted by Interfax Friday, blamed the killings on the Popular Front, though Mr. Elchibey's press office in Baku denounced them as an attempt to stir up trouble, an appeal for calm.

On Thursday in Gyandzha, two rebel leaders and a civil servant were killed by an unidentified group of assailants who burst into the city hall there.

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Fire in French clinic kills 17

BRUZ, France (AP) — A fire roared through a private psychiatric clinic early Friday morning, killing 17 people and injuring at least 35, rescue authorities reported. Two people were missing.

The blaze broke out just before 1 a.m. in the rafters of a wing at the Saint-Francois d'Assises Clinic, a three-story stone chateau on the outskirts of this village near the western city of Rennes.

The blaze quickly turned into an inferno that tore through the clinic's three floors, trapping many of the patients in their beds, firefighters said.

Sixty-four patients and seven staff members were in the building when the blaze broke out. They had earlier held a party to lead the patients to safety.

celebrate the summer solstice.

"It was horrible," said a firefighter on condition of anonymity. "There were screams everywhere. We couldn't see anything because of the smoke. Fortunately, it didn't take us long to get everyone out of it."

Among the injured was a panic-stricken woman who jumped from a window in her nightgown. Most of the rest suffered from shock or smoke inhalation. Five were hospitalized in Rennes in serious condition.

Sixteen of the dead were patients, mostly killed in the building's left wing where the fire broke out. The last dead person was a nurse who died trying to lead the patients to safety.

As they were rescued, the patients and staff, shivering in their bathrobes, were grouped at a small annex. Some smoked. Most wept. Scorched metal beds littered the courtyard.

Nadir links cost U.K. minister his job

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major's accident-prone government suffered another embarrassing upset when Northern Ireland Minister Michael Mates was forced to resign over his links with fugitive tycoon Asil Nadir.

Mr. Mates became the government's third ministerial casualty in just 14 crisis-filled months Thursday after being engulfed by controversy over Mr. Nadir's donations to the ruling party and alleged contacts with government power-brokers.

The downfall of the brusque ex-army officer under the weight of almost daily media stories about his links with Mr. Nadir, especially his gift of an inscribed watch, revived questions about Mr. Major's faltering leadership.

Some Conservatives complained Mr. Major had left Mr. Mates "swinging in the wind" as increasingly muted expressions of support sowed confusion about the minister's future. Mr. Major originally said Mr. Mates's relationship with Mr. Nadir was "not a hanging offence".

"The prevarication has added to an impression of a lack of grip at the top," said Friday's Daily Telegraph. "For weeks Mr. Mates was left to drift in space,

amid rumour and counter-rumour of the prime minister's support or lack of it."

As Mr. Mates made a reluctant exit, Mr. Nadir beamed further embarrassment on the government with a television appearance from his luxury north Cyprus home in which he spoke of power lunches with senior Conservatives who "cooed" him for cash.

Mr. Nadir told Independent Television News how party supporters gained him entry into the presence of then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former party Chairman Kenneth Baker.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Mates denied he had acted improperly in his dealings with the tycoon, who fled to his native Cyprus last month to escape theft and false accounting charges over his collapsed Polly Peck conglomerate.

But Mr. Mates said he felt duty-bound to resign to quell a stream of leaks and "so-called quotes from unknown sources."

In a cheeky sign-off to his resignation letter, Mr. Mates said he should have presented Mr. Major, instead of Mr. Nadir, with the infamous watch inscribed

Coalescing new party, Japan's opposition backs same old policies

TOKYO (AP) — The strange bedfellows challenging 38 years of Liberal Democratic rule said Friday they had agreed to put aside traditional policy differences for the sake of ending one-party rule.

After decades of mounting fruitless challenges against the conservatives, the Social Democrats, the largest opposition, have decided for the time being to turn their backs on their traditionally Marxist and pacifist ideology to ally with ruling party renegades.

The firming alliance between the Socialists and former governing party lawmakers raises the likelihood of a major defeat for the Liberal Democrats in parliamentary elections set for July 18.

By coopting the traditional opposition, lawmakers who have fled the scandal-tainted ruling party have vastly increased their chances of leading a new government after the election.

But it also could mean that there will be little change in Japan's foreign or domestic policies, regardless of who rules.

The Social Democratic Party held 136 seats in parliament's 511-seat lower house before Mr. Miyazawa called elections. The Liberal Democrats had 274 seats, but since have lost 56 lawmakers, who have fled to form their own pro-reform parties.

The largest of those groups is the 44-member New Life Party, led by 57-year-old former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata. Mr. Hata led an unusual intra-party revolt against Mr. Miyazawa last week, joining the opposition in passing a no-confidence vote that forced the prime minister to call snap parliamentary

elections.

Mr. Hata has since been busy making the rounds to solicit support from other opposition groups, big business and union leaders.

Shinichi Sakamoto, a 41-year-old Democratic Party official, said his group would back current basic policies of the Liberal Democratic Party in economy and defense. That includes a new law to send troops overseas for U.N. peacekeeping operations.

"We cannot move forward if we accentuate our differences," Mr. Sakamoto said.

Until recent years, the Socialists have campaigned against having any military at all. They made opposition to the peacekeeping debate a major issue in the last election.

But after losing election after election, regardless of public disquiet with ruling party corruption, they have decided to seize the opportunity to share power.

"The most important thing is to first get rid of the LDP," said Shinji Moriya, a Socialist assemblyman campaigning for Tokyo metropolitan elections to be held Sunday.

"To form a coalition government, we have to join with Hata-san. There may be people who say they don't like that, but those people will just have to get out of the way," Mr. Moriya said.

The centrist Komeito, or Clean Government Party, which had 46 seats in the lower house, also decided to back Liberal Democratic policies in joining the rebels.

All this peacemaking between traditional rival groups has raised doubt over whether the reform movement will really offer

much of a change.

Mr. Hata's group consists mainly of younger legislators, who have won support by calling for reforms to clean up political corruption. But they have no major policy — or tactical — differences with the old-guard Liberal Democrats.

Three major nationwide dailies carried articles Friday on fundraising parties recently held by both the New Life and Liberal Democratic parties.

Many businesses buy hundreds of overpriced tickets to such gatherings as a disguised form of corporate donations — one of many fundraising tactics that have come under attack for encouraging corruption.

"Reform is reform, a sarcastic head-line in the Mainichi newspaper.

The fact that many New Life Party members built their careers on close ties with senior scandal-tainted politicians in the Liberal Democratic Party has reinforced suspicions that the reformist movement could be just a power play.

Mr. Hata said he hopes his party will become the core of a bloc of non-Liberal Democratic parties that would unite to implement reform in the election system.

Currently, several candidates from the same party compete for votes in multi-seat districts, encouraging vote-buying and pork-barrel favours, rather than policy debates.

Mr. Hata and the opposition favour a compromise between the single-seat district system and a system that allots seats by the proportion of votes won by each party.

who brought him to power on a tide of nationalist support last June.

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They ended their nearly two-hour occupation of the World Trade Centre east of Johannesburg after reaching an agreement with police that there would be no arrests.

The invasion shortly before the start of a negotiating council session, came the day after the Conservative Party (CP), champion of a federated white state, secured its return to the AWB.

The action was spearheaded by the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) led by Eugene Terre Blanche who, along with CP leader Ferdinand Hartzenberg and Afrikaner Volkstraf chief Constand Viljoen, was involved in negotiations with security forces.

Twenty-five canvas-covered Cambodian Red Cross trucks ferried the refugees from Phnom Penh's Olympic Stadium, escorted by police of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the 22,000-strong peacekeeping force that ran last month's national election.

Thousands of supporters and officials of the Royalist FUNCINPEC Party, the election winner, fled to the capital when hardliners in the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) called the polls a fraud and declared several provinces near Vietnam an autonomous zone.

Many refugees have since returned voluntarily and 3,000 more will be returned in the next three days under U.N. escort.

The secessionist movement collapsed under pressure from head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk and CPP leader Hun Sen, the Phnom Penh government's prime minister.

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The announcement came after the sixth round of talks ended earlier in the day with what a British negotiator described as a "little progress" but a long way to go.

"We have made a little progress and of course I very much hope that we shall continue to make progress," Britain's ambassador to China, Sir Robin

Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk's son Prince Norodom Ranariddh agreed Thursday on the composition of an interim coalition government and Khmer Rouge President Khieu Samphan was invited to return to Phnom Penh in moves seen as easing fears of war in the faction-ridden country.

The value of the Cambodian currency, the riel, rose from 3,200 to a U.S. dollar Friday morning to 2,800 by early afternoon in market stalls, a sure sign of lessening tensions.

It had plunged to near 5,000 against the dollar just before the May 23-28 elections as fears spread that Khmer Rouge threats to disrupt the polling could reignite a civil war.

Mr. Hun Sen has ordered all government officials in the affected zones to make sure the refugees return to their homes and jobs and are able to resume their political and social lives.

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Sports

Sampras into round of 16; Lendl disappears

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Top-seeded Pete Sampras overpowered Byron Black in a quick third-round match Friday, becoming the first man to reach Wimbledon's round of 16.

Black, a Zimbabwean who played at the University of Southern California, fended off seven set points before yielding the first set, but offered little resistance thereafter as Sampras won 6-4, 6-1, 6-1, in about an hour and a half.

Sampras' chief worry was a nosebleed in the middle of the second set, but he continued to dominate play after treatment by a tournament trainer.

In women's play, Yauk Basuki of Indonesia upset 10th-seeded Magdalena Maleeva, the last survivor of the three highly ranked Bulgarian-born sisters. Basuki, a 6-4, 6-2 winner, also reached the fourth round here last year.

Momentarily earlier, Meredith McGrath, a qualifier from Midland, Michigan, earned the distinction of becoming the first player into the fourth round, upsetting fellow American Shaun Stafford, 6-1, 6-2.

McGrath, 22, is ranked only 148th, compared to 58th for Stafford, and in six previous Grand Slams had won only one match, at Wimbledon in 1990.

The women's top seed, Steffi Graf, was to play later Friday against Helen Kelesi of Canada, ranked 87th in the world.

The second round concluded Thursday with dramatic, but surely contrasting losses by Ivan Lendl and Britain's Chris Bailey.

Lendl slipped away from the Wimbledon grounds without meeting the press, his dogged quest for a title here once again ending in failure, and perhaps ending for good.

Bailey, with a lifetime record of 14-29 and a No. 263 world ranking, walked off centre court to a tumultuous ovation after playing the match of his life.

He had just battled fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic through five sets of the most thrilling tennis so far in the tournament. The Croatian resorted to a daring second-serve ace to save a match point before prevailing 5-7, 7-6

(7-3), 6-7 (7-3), 6-4, 6-7.

Lendl, 33, made his earliest exit from Wimbledon since a first-round loss in 1981. He didn't stay around to answer the inevitable questions about whether this would be his last try at the only grand slam tournament he's never won.

But Arnaud Boetsch, the 24-year-old Frenchman who beat him 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4, was willing to answer when asked, if Lendl still had a shot at a Wimbledon title.

"The way be played, I don't think so," Boetsch said.

In addition to Lendl, 10th-seeded Andrei Medvedev was ousted Thursday. The top 10 women's seeds have reached the third round, the top six men.

Ivanisevic had a rest day Friday. He will need it after two straight five-set matches.

"Everything is now," the Croatian left-hander said after ousting Bailey. "But this shows me that it's never over. You can flight.... I'll play all seven (matches) in five sets if I have to, just to win the tournament."

Bailey, 25, has been playing at Wimbledon since 1987, but won only two first-round matches against obscure opponents. This was his first time on centre court.

"To be able to perform like that is obviously very heartening for me," he said. "When I walked out there, it was great and everybody was cheering. It was just an unbelievable experience, and I want to do it next year."

He was still a bit stunned by Ivanisevic's match point-saving ace.

"I've never seen that before on second serve," he said. "That was hit or miss, and he made it."

Why take the risk, Ivanisevic was asked.

"Why not?" replied the Croatian. "I have to give it a try. I mean, if you hit a slow serve and he hits a great return, then you think, 'why didn't I go for something big?'"

Though Bailey departed, head high, two other unsung Britons have reached the third round: Curtis Wilkinson and Andrew Foster. It's the first time two British men have gone this far



Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev

since 1977.

Wilkinson's third-round opponent Saturday will be second-seeded Stefan Edberg.

"I have a chance of beating him," said Wilkinson, ranked 143rd.

A good chance?

Edberg glided to a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory in 99 minutes against Amos Mansdorf while former world number one Jim Courier also took his place in the last 32 with a 7-5, 6-1, 7-6 victory over Ronald Agenor of Haifa.

The last of the women's second-round matches were also completed with no further loss of seeds. Martina Navratilova continued to look the most serious threat to top seed Steffi Graf with a 6-0, 6-4 defeat of South African Ros Fairbank-Nideffer of South Africa at Wimbledon Thursday.

"Kids come out of these schools and they know how to hit a forehand, a backhand, but they don't know how to serve, hit

There's something rotten in the game of tennis, and Martina Navratilova blames the coaches.

She feels, and the lack of creative coaching is the reason.

"They are coaching everybody the same way. Everybody looks like a clone out there. The stroke production is fantastic, but that's all. There's not much creativity," Navratilova said after her 6-0, 6-4 second-round victory over Ros Fairbank-Nideffer of South Africa at Wimbledon Thursday.

"Kids come out of these schools and they know how to hit a forehand, a backhand, but they don't know how to serve, hit

game's wrongs

volleys, overheads or off-balance shots. They (the coaches) just don't encourage it, they don't teach spontaneously at all."

Navratilova, who is pursuing a 10th Wimbledon singles title, was asked why the coaches were teaching that way.

Warning to her theme, she replied: "Because that doesn't win initially. An all-round game takes much longer to get good at and people are into rankings.

"They have to get to some kind of ranking level to get picked up by this association or that coaching school. Then you see kids in Texas avoiding tournaments at 12 and under because they want to keep their number five ranking for the rest of the year.

"Who the hell cares what ranking you have at that point?" she exclaimed.

A key witness in an inquiry into claims Marseille tried to bribe Valenciennes players, before the match that clinched their fifth successive league title, has said he was paid more than 200,000 francs (\$40,000).

Valenciennes attacker Christophe Robert said the money was given to his wife by a Marseille player, believed to be Jean-Jacques Eydelie, sources close to the investigation said.

Police later discovered 242,000 francs in the garden of one of Robert's relatives in the Bordeau.

Marseille president Bernard Tapie went to see the Valenciennes prosecutor Thursday night at his own request, his lawyer announced. No details were given on their meeting though.

Robert's confession came a month after a Valenciennes defender, Jacques Glassmann, alleged that Jean-Pierre Berne, Marseille general manager, had offered him 200,000 francs to throw the match.

Robert and Glassmann were in the same room when they claim to have been contacted by Marseille.

The Valenciennes game has a week before the

Marseille could be thrown out of league

VALENCIENNES, France (AFP) — Marseille could be stripped of their first division championship, and thrown out of the league if allegations of corruption are proved.

And president of relegated Valenciennes, Michel Coenca, has Thursday demanded they should be given a reprieve from the drop into the French second division, if the bribery scandal comes to light.

A key witness in an inquiry into claims Marseille tried to bribe Valenciennes players, before the match that clinched their fifth successive league title, has said he was paid more than 200,000 francs (\$40,000).

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The Valenciennes game has a week before the

European Cup final and with the league title wrapped up Marseille could relax and concentrate on beating AC Milan.

Marseille have denied the charges, and counterclaimed that Valenciennes tried to bribe Marseille officials and thereby avoid relegation.

Jean-Louis Leveraeu, vice-president of Marseille, said "the full truth of this affair has to come out and exemplary punishments must be made if dishonest actions which cast a slur on football and the club's image are proved."

The French football league has the power to strip Marseille of the title and relegate them to the second division.

League president Noel Le Graet said: "Personally, I would like things to move quickly."

"But it's more important that this gangrene in football be cured, than the affair be settled quickly in time for the start of the championship on July 24."

It is not the first time that Marseille's flamboyant president, Bernard Tapie has had to deal with corruption allegations.

Marseille were cleared of paying for their first league title under Tapie in 1989. The bribing allegations made by Bordeaux president Claude Bez backfired as Bez found himself in prison accused of fraud.

Tapie refused to believe in any of the corruption allegations. He said: "I don't believe any of this. Most of Marseille's players play for France or are internationals in their own countries. They therefore have no need to bribe their opponents to win matches."

LeMond to miss Tour de France

PARIS (AFP) — Triple Tour de France winner Greg LeMond of the United States is so short of form that he is unlikely to start this year's race.

The full results are expected next Tuesday but we will only start the Tour four days later if doctors believe they can find a quick remedy.

"We just don't understand what's gone wrong," added LeMond, who said LeMond was "devastated" and had only a five percent chance of starting the July 3.

"So far, the tests haven't shown up anything. It's strange that Greg should pull up like this, particularly after having followed ideal preparation programs."

"I don't think he can pull it off this year — I don't think he'll have it in the big mountains," Roche said recently.

"I do think he has bad it — the general feeling among the riders; to be honest, is that it's finished for him. He has to believe it, deep down, even if he won't say it openly."

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* Void

* J 10 7 5 3 2

* A Q 8 6 3

* 9 5

WEST

* A 9 6 7 6

* 4

* Void

* A K Q J 6 4 3 * 2

EAST

* J Q 5 4 3

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SOUTH

* J 10 2

* A K 9 8 6

* K 10

* 10 6 7

The bidding:

South West North East

1 Pass 2 3 * 4 *

Pass 5 * 6 * 7

7 Dbl Pass Pass

Pass

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Wasn't two-haunt cue-bid showed the black suits and North's jump to

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Month	
January	Garnet
February	Amethyst
March	Aquamarine
April	Diamond
May	Emerald
June	Pearl
July	Ruby
August	Peridot
September	Sapphire
October	Opal
November	Topaz
December	Turquoise

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Opposition hopeful as Moroccans vote

RABAT (Agencies) — Moroc-
can voted Friday to elect their
fourth parliament since inde-
pendence in an election which
could bring opposition parties into
government for the first time
in three decades.

Officials said the turnout aver-
aged 21 per cent of the 11.5
million voters four hours after
polling stations opened. They
closed at 1900 GMT and results
are not expected before Satur-
day.

The general election, the first
in nine years, could open the
door to the return of office of
opposition parties after being in
the political wilderness for 30
years.

"In a few weeks, in September
at the latest, the opposition could
enter government," the opposi-
tion *Isrlql* daily *L'Opinion* said
Friday.

The candidates have virtually
all promised economic growth,
more jobs, better health and
education, a drive against corruption
and improved human rights.

The winning party is slated to
set up a government for the first
time since independence from
France in 1956.

Until now it has been King
Hassan who designated the prime
minister and cabinet. The change
came in a constitutional amendment
in 1992.

A single round of direct elec-

tions are being held to choose
two-thirds of the 333-seat parlia-
ment.

The remaining deputies are to
be chosen over the next few
weeks by community councillors,
trade associations and unions.

Running for parliament, which
will sit for six years, are a total of
1,875 candidates from 11 parties,
and 167 independents.

The old-guard Nationalist Istiqlal
Party and its former foes in the
Socialist Union of People's
Forces (USFP) have banded
together for the first time to
present joint candidates for the
222 seats in the chamber of represen-
tatives.

They are backed by the two
smaller leftwing parties.

The other 111 seats will be
elected later indirectly by mem-
bers of local councils, profes-
sional groups and trade unions.

Five centrist parties won an
absolute majority of 215 seats in
the last election which the opposi-
tion says was marred by so many
irregularities that the parliament
lacked credibility.

The four opposition parties had
85 seats in the outgoing chamber
whose eight-year mandate ex-
pired in October.

"It made a lot of noise, but it
was mostly snoring. It was like a
dormitory," said a member of the
outgoing majority.



WHITE WRATH Right wingers hold anti-apartheid posters and a Boer republic flag after storming neburg (see page 8)

Germany threatens anti-Kurd action after attacks in Europe

MUNICH (Agencies) — Ger-
many Friday threatened to out-
law and deport Kurdish militants
to prevent a repeat of violence
that flared across the continent a
day earlier, leaving one Kurd
dead and scores arrested.

Officials are worried the
Kurd's separatist war against Tur-
key could spread to Germany,
where 1.8 million Turks live,
among them nearly 400,000
Kurds.

Kurds attacked Turkish targets
in six countries Thursday in their
biggest action outside the
Mideast. European police made
at least 61 arrests, including more
than 30 in Germany, where most
of the violence occurred.

The violence continued Friday,
with Kurds and Turks battling in
front of the Turkish consulate at
Karlsruhe, in southern Germany,
after Kurds blocked the build-
ing's entrance. Police said five or
six people were slightly injured
before they moved in and made
100 arrests.

In Munich, 13 men who seized
the Turkish consulate went be-
fore a magistrate. He was ex-
pected to confirm the charges of
kidnapping and attempted
murder of the German government.
The men could face 15 years in
prison if tried and convicted on
the charges.

The 13 — 12 Turkish citizens
and a stateless man — released
their last captives just before
midnight after a 14-hour standoff.
The men left the building with
clothed fists raised in the air
before boarding a police bus.

The government said it was
stepping up its efforts to prevent
Kurdish militants from exporting
their fight for autonomy to Ger-
man soil.

Interior Minister Rudolf Sei-
ters proposed that his counter-
parts politically and spread across Tur-
key, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Armenia,
are the world's biggest ethnic

population without its own country.
They often are at war, and
frequently are used as pawns in
conflicts between neighbouring
states.

In Bern, Switzerland, one
Kurd was killed and seven
wounded Thursday when Turks
in the embassy fired at protesters.
Kurds seized a Turkish consulate in
Marseille but freed hostages
unharmed.

Separatists tried and failed to
get into Turkish consulates in
Zurich, Geneva, and Lyon,
France. Others smashed windows
or furniture at Turkish-owned
banks, travel bureaus and airline
offices in 10 German cities and in
London, Stockholm and Copenhagen.

The PKK leader, Abdullah Ocalan,
recently vowed to make the
summer "the bloodiest ever
for Turkey" with attacks on the
tourism industry and security
forces.

The group accuse Turkey of
attacking Kurdish villages even
though the PKK offered a cease-
fire in March. Both sides have
been accused of atrocities.

The standoff in Munich began
as the four-story stucco consulate
opened for business on Thursday.
The Kurds stood at the head of
the line at a passport window,
then overpowered Turkish Guards
and took 23 hostages, according
to police.

After negotiations with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top aide,
Bernd Schmid, the last nine
women, he said, were freed just
before the cordon past masked police sharpshooters.

None of the hostages were
injured, and no deal was made for
the surrender, Interior Minister
Beckstein, the Bavarian interior minister,
said at a news conference
Friday.

Campbell sworn in as Canada's premier

TORONTO (AP) — Kim Camp-
bell became Canada's 19th prime
minister Friday, the first woman
ever to hold the post.

She and her ministers were
sworn in at government house by
Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn.
A short time after Brian Mulroney
submitted the resignation of his government.

Mulroney, who had headed the government since
1984, tendered his resignation and that of his cabinet to Mr
Hnatyshyn.

Mr. Campbell recited a brief
oath in both English and French,
Canada's official languages.

Trying to set the tone for a
leaner, meaner government, the
new cabinet ministers arrived at
Rideau Hall in taxis, rather than
the usual limousines.

Keeping her promise to reduce
the size of the government, the
new prime minister appointed
only 24 ministers, 10 fewer than
the Mulroney government. Notable
was the fact that Canada's first
female prime minister reduced
women in the cabinet from seven
to five.

The number of government de-
partments was pared from 32 to
23.

Jean Charest, the 35-year-old
environment minister from Quebec
who came from far behind and
nearly defeated Ms. Campbell in
the leadership race, was named deputy prime minister
and minister of industry, science
and consumer and corporate affairs.

Perrin Beatty, who had been
communications minister under
Mr. Mulroney takes over as
secretary of state for external
affairs, and Tom Siddon, formerly
head of Indian affairs and
northern development, takes
over Ms. Campbell's post at defense.

Aideed rivals seek deeper U.N. role

MOGADISHU (R) — Rivals of
fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed called on the UN
Friday to all but take over the running of Somalia —
the very thing General Aideed
violently opposed.

Eleven political groups aligned
with self-styled President Ali
Mahdi Mohammad said the U.N.
should sponsor new peace talks,
disarm and police the whole
country, and take over what
assets have not been looted and
Somali embassies and buildings
abroad.

"We must do everything in our
power to help the U.N. in its
noble mission to save Somalia.
We are calling on our people to
talk peace and propagate
brotherhood," said the deputy
leader of one faction, Awad Ashraaf
of the United Somali Party.

He and leaders of the other
factions denied that their call was
an attempt to seek favour with
the United Nations, further
marginalizing Gen. Aideed's
Somali National Alliance (SNA) or
put the country under U.N. trusteeship.

There was no immediate re-
sponse from the U.N. to the
appeal by the 11 factions, who
aligned themselves with Mr. Ali
Mahdi against four other groups
loosely led by Gen. Aideed.

"We're studying it. We're basically
supportive of anything that
will help restore peace and
accelerate rehabilitation," U.N.
official said privately.

A document issued by the 11
urged the convening of a fresh
national reconciliation conference
after marathon talks in the
Ethiopian capital earlier this year.

If held, these would force the
SNA to produce a new leader if
Gen. Aideed were still in hiding
to avoid an arrest warrant issued
over the June 5 killing of 24
Pakistani peacekeepers.

They called on the U.N. to

At the same time, guards
at the U.N. compound exchanged
shots with snipers, said UN-
OSOM military spokesman
David Stockwell.

No casualties were reported in
either incident.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Basque militant gets 1,311 years for bomb attack

MADRID (AFP) — A Basque separatist militant has been jailed by Spain's highest court for 1,311 years for his part in a bomb attack on a police barracks which killed nine people and injured 44 two years ago: Juan Jose Zubia Zubeldia was sentenced Thursday in connection with the attack in May 1991 at Vie in the north eastern province of Catalonia, court officials said. He was found guilty of murdering nine people including five children and attempting to kill 44 others.

Togo president sets new election date

LOME (R) — Togo's government has said that delayed presidential elections were to begin on July 18, with a second round of Aug. 1. The announcement, broadcast on national radio, came two days after talks with opposition groups broke down over differences on election procedure.

New government named for Chad

NDJAMENA (AFP) — Chadian Prime Minister Fidel Mougar has formed a new slim-line government limited to 15 ministers and two deputy ministers. Ahmad Korom, a former diplomatic adviser to President Idriss Deby becomes foreign minister, according to the list made public Thursday. The interior Ministry went to Ali Djalibord who was executive secretary of the inter-state committee against Sahel drought. Opposition party leaders in the old government retained their posts but several junior ministers lost their jobs. The transitional legislature had asked Mr. Mougar at the beginning of June to prune his team in accordance with a decision of the national conference to trim bureaucracy. The previous government had 31 members.

Ireland lifts ban on homosexuals

DUBLIN (AFP) — The Dail, the Irish parliament, lifted a 130-year-old ban on homosexuality Thursday in the latest of a series of profound changes to the country's traditionally rigid social legislation. Homosexuality is now legal in the Irish Republic between persons aged 17 and over — in most European countries the age of consent is either 15 or 16, although it remains at 21 in Britain. Under a Victorian law dating from 1863, which had not been enforced for some time, homosexual acts carried a penalty of penal servitude for life.

Bhutto's mother wants amnesty for son

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's mother, Istrat demanded an amnesty for her son Murtaza so he could return home from 16 years in exile. She told reporters that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan should announce the amnesty, but she would not advise her son to return if it was promised by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, whom she said she did not trust. Murtaza has lived in exile abroad since a 1977 army coup toppled his father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as prime minister, who was later executed after a controversial conviction for conspiring to murder a political opponent. In recent years, Murtaza has lived in Syria and is wanted by Pakistani authorities for alleged terrorist activities dating back to the 11-year rule of late military President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

India, China begin border talks

NEW DELHI (AFP) — China and India launched two days of confidence-building talks here Friday aimed at keeping the peace on their disputed border, officials said. The two sides, led by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and Indian Foreign Secretary Jyoti Nath Dixit, held 90 minutes of talks which focused on a possible treaty to maintain "peace and tranquility" on the frontier, the officials said. Mr. Dixit and Mr. Tang also had a one-on-one meeting during which they discussed bilateral and international issues.

Israel to appoint first Arab ambassador

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Friday it would soon appoint its first Arab ambassador, probably to a European country. "We've already decided who the man is," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio. "It will certainly be made public soon." One Israeli Arab has served as a consul but the foreign ministry said this would be Israel's first Arab ambassador. Denying a report in the daily *Al Hamash* that the man would be posted to a Muslim republic of the former Soviet Union, Mr. Peres said: "I prefer to appoint him to a European country." About 15 per cent of Israel's five million citizens are Arabs.

Cyprus court rejects freedom for Frenchman

NICOSIA (R) — The Cyprus supreme court on Friday turned down a petition to free Charles Altei, wanted in France for the murder of a judge 12 years ago. He had filed a petition for habeas corpus after a district court ordered in May that he should be extradited to France. Mr. Altei, 37, escaped in 1987 from a Swiss prison where he was serving a 20-year sentence for drug trafficking after which he was due to be extradited to France. A French court which sentenced Mr. Altei in absentia in April 1991 heard that he was the driver of a motorcycle whose owner died in a motorcycle accident in 1981.

EC to aid Lebanon in drug crackdown

BEIRUT (R) — The European Community (EC) promised on Friday to aid Lebanon in its campaign to stamp out drugs growing and trafficking which flourished during 15 years of civil war. Interior Minister Beshara Merhej told reporters after talks with EC representatives that all illegal crops, mainly cannabis, were being destroyed by troops and police. Mr. Merhej said his talks with the ambassadors of Britain, France, Spain, Germany and Belgium would produce results. "They will go on with their programme to help Lebanon fight this social disease," said Mr. Merhej.

UAE: Boycott of Israel still in force

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday denied Israeli reports that it would join Kuwait in lifting an "indirect" boycott of Israel. "The UAE affirms that the boycott of Israel is still in force and the boycott was a joint Arab decision. The reasons for such a decision also still exist," a senior Foreign Ministry official told the news agency WAM. WAM said the UAE was reacting to an Israeli radio report Thursday that the UAE had informed the United States it would follow Kuwait's example.

Taiwan tells Chinese hijackers not welcome

TAIPEI (R) — A senior Taiwanese official, speaking after the second hijacking of a Chinese airliner to Taiwan in three months, said Friday the island would not welcome hijackers seeking asylum. "We welcome efforts by mainland compatriots to push for democracy, but we do not welcome hijacking. It is an act of violence," James Chu, spokesman for the ruling Nationalist Party, told reporters. Zhang Wenlong, 28, a former Chinese army officer, hijacked a Xiamen Airlines Boeing 737 to Taipei Thursday and sought asylum. The plane and 71 other people on board returned to China on the same day, and Zhang will stand trial in Taiwan.

Babangida vows to swear in elected president

ABUJA (AP) — Criticized at home and abroad for voiding national elections, Nigeria's military dictator said Friday that a democratically elected president will be sworn in on Aug. 27 as previously planned. General Ibrahim Babangida spoke to reporters after briefing senior military and police officers about the June 12 presidential elections, which he abruptly annulled on Wednesday. Gen. Babangida would not say who would be the new president of Africa's most populous state. Billionaire industrialist Moshood K.O. Abiola was leading by a wide margin when a court barred the release of results because of a lawsuit brought by Babangida supporters. Both Mr. Abiola and his rival, Bashir Othman Tofa, were good friends of Gen. Babangida, who formed their political parties and wrote their platforms.

COLUMN

U.K. Queen Mother unveils De Gaulle statue

LONDON (AP) — Returning to work after missing some engagements last week, Queen Mother Elizabeth Wednesday unveiled a statue of Charles De Gaulle outside his war-time headquarters. Looking pale and at times a little unsteady, the 92-year-old mother of Queen Elizabeth II nonetheless chatted animatedly with guests at the ceremony. Last week she was absent from the annual Garter ceremony at St. George's Chapel in Windsor, and later missed all of the Royal Ascot races. Royal spokesmen said she had a mild case of flu. "It gives me very great pleasure to unveil a statue of Charles De Gaulle, a great patriot, whose life and achievements were so important to France and to us," said the Queen Mother, widow of Britain's war-time monarch, George VI. Guests included members of Gen. De Gaulle's family, including his son Admiral Philippe De Gaulle.

Anyone want a \$1 million bicycle, gold included?

TEL AVIV (AP) — For anyone looking for a golden opportunity to get into perfect shape, a Swiss jeweller may provide you with the answer in exchange for \$1 million. That is the starting auction price for a gem-studded bicycle with golden pedals and chains that went on sale here Wednesday. The bicycle is designed to be used, down to the small air pump stuck in the ostrich-hide covered handlebars. Aside from the 1,188 grams of gold and platinum, the bicycle comes with its own off-road menagerie. The carbon fiber frame is painted with African animals decorated with emeralds, rubies, yellow sapphires, onyx, malachite and diamonds. The bicycle, designed by Swiss artisan Volker Rhenisch, was displayed during a Tel Aviv gathering of the International Coloured Gemstone Association, an organization of miners, cutters and traders from 38 countries. The bidding that started Wednesday was private and the sales price will not be revealed, said Cheryl Kremekow, an association spokesman.

Michael Jackson plans Hong Kong start to